

Effingham County

Effingham County is the fourth oldest county in the state of Georgia, having been created from the colonial parishes of St. Matthew and St. Philips in 1777. The name honors Lord Effingham, an English champion of colonial rights and a nobleman who declined to fight the revolutionaries.

The county seat shifted several times before Springfield, the present site, was designated in the 1830s. The state legislature made the settlement of Tuckasee-King, near the Screven County line, the first county seat. This was the location, near the present town of Clyo, of a river ferry established by General Oglethorpe linking Tuckasee-King's Bluff in Georgia with Palachocolas settlements across the Savannah River in South Carolina. This was an important link with northern overland trade paths.

In 1787, the county seat was moved to Elberton on the Ogeechee River at Indian Bluff. A later legislature, meeting in the state capitol at Louisville in 1799, appointed five commissioners to lay out a new town to be known as Effingham.

Still another community, Ebenezer, served as county seat for about three years from 1796 to 1799. Ebenezer had been founded in 1767, by Salzburgers from Germany. They laid out their town on the pattern of Savannah, a quarter mile square containing a church, parsonage, academy, orphan house, market place, and public storehouse. This was a thriving town at the start of the Revolution, and it was fortified by the Continental soldiers in 1776. English Colonel Archibald Campbell successfully led his force against the town early in 1779, and held it until 1782. During this time the church was used first as a hospital and then as a stable for English cavalry. Ebenezer was a thoroughfare for English troops passing from Augusta to Savannah until recaptured by the Continentals in July 1782. Ebenezer was the headquarters of General Anthony Wayne, the county seat, and, for a short period, the actual capital of Georgia.

Much of Effingham County was settled originally by the fifteen hundred Salzburgers who joined Oglethorpe in 1733. They are known to have settled Bethany in 1751, with about 160 residents under the leadership of William DeBrahm. About ten miles south of Ebenezer, they built another settlement called Goshen. Ten other families established Abercorn. None of the towns endured.

Source: Foundations of Government - The Georgia Counties, Association County Commissioners of Georgia, 1976.

News In This County

Savannah Area Awarded \$3,000,000 Grant to Enhance, Coordinate Emergency Communications Network

September 15, 2005

Washington, DC –
12th District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) today announced that local law enforcement and emergency response agencies across the Savannah area have been awarded a \$3,000,000 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). The money will be used to help emergency service providers coordinate an integrated communications network that allows different agencies and jurisdictions to communicate via radio network when needed.

Rep. John Barrow Announces Upcoming Rural Listening Tour

May 26, 2005

On
Wednesday, June 1st, Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) will launch a three day listening tour, visiting rural and agricultural communities across Georgia's 12th Congressional District. The tour will visit 9 counties – Taliaferro, Warren, Glascock, Jefferson, Burke, Jenkins, Bulloch, Screven, and Effingham County.

Barrow Applauds USDA Decision to Suspend FSA Office Closure Plan

October 19, 2005

Washington, DC –
Georgia Congressman John Barrow (12th District) today issued the following statement in response to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) decision to set aside its "FSA Tomorrow" plan, a controversial proposal that would have closed and consolidated 665 Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices nationwide:

Rep. Barrow Challenges Dubai International's Pending Purchase of a Military Engine Parts Plant in Rincon, Georgia

March 2, 2006

Washington, DC –

In the wake of today's news of an investigation into a state-owned business from the United Arab Emirates that is set to buy a factory in Rincon, Georgia, that produces parts for military tank and aircraft engines, 12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) is calling on Congress to enact mandatory security investigations into all pending and future foreign acquisitions directly affecting American businesses involved in international transportation or defense contracting.

Congressman

John Barrow Calls for Release of Records on All Foreign Investment Security Investigations Since September 11th, 2001

March 3, 2006

Washington, DC –

Responding to increasing evidence of the Treasury Department's sloppy oversight of foreign investment into businesses and industries critical to American homeland security and military defense, 12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow and the Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Committee today called on the Treasury Department to release all records related to Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) investigations conducted since September 11th, 2001.

President of Doncasters U.S. Division to Lead Congressman John Barrow on a Tour of Doncasters Effingham Facility

March 27, 2006

Savannah, GA –

After requesting a detailed tour of Doncasters Group Limited's Georgia based tank and aircraft part production facility, 12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) today announced that the President of Doncasters Inc., the American division of Doncasters Limited Group, has agreed to lead an April 12th tour of the Doncasters Effingham plant.

Rep. Barrow Requests a Tour of Doncasters Effingham Facility as the Dubai Government Delays the Proposed \$1.2 Billion Deal

March 21, 2006

Savannah, GA –

In light of the recent news that the Dubai government has decided to delay Dubai International Capital's pending acquisition of Doncasters Group Limited, which owns and operates a tank and military aircraft engine parts plant in Rincon, Georgia, 12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) today sent a letter to the local plant manager asking for an extensive tour of the Effingham County facility.

Barrow: "The time to fix CFIUS is long overdue"

February 28, 2007

Washington, DC –

During today's debate on the National Security Foreign Investment Reform and Strengthened Transparency Act of 2007 (H.R. 556), the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously agreed to include an amendment by 12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) which will ensure that the appropriate members of Congress are notified when foreign companies purchase American businesses involved in national security and military defense.

Rep. John Barrow Responds to White House's Approval of Doncasters Sale

April 28, 2006

Washington, DC –

12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) today released the following statement after the White House announced it had approved the sale of Doncasters Group Limited to Dubai International Capital:

Congressman John Barrow Announces Upcoming 2006 Rural Listening Tour

April 13, 2006

Savannah, GA –
12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) today announced the schedule for his upcoming 2006 12th District Rural Listening Tour. Starting on Wednesday, April 19th, Barrow will launch his now annual three-day listening tour, visiting rural and agricultural communities across Georgia's 12th Congressional District. The tour will visit 8 counties – Taliaferro, Glascock, Jefferson, Burke, Jenkins, Bulloch, Screven, and Effingham.

Effingham County Fire Rescue Awarded \$896,771 Homeland Security Grant

January 31, 2007

Washington, DC –
12th District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) announced today that Effingham County Fire Rescue has been awarded an \$896,771 grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP). Nine area fire departments will use the grant to purchase new communications equipment such as mobile and portable radios, chargers, pagers, base stations, 800 MHz repeaters, and a computer-aided dispatch system – expanding regional collaboration information sharing among the region's firefighters.